

# Hispanic & Latin@ Students at UNCG - Their Library Perspectives and Experiences



# Hello!

**Rachel Olsen (she/her/hers)**

First-Year Communication & Social  
Sciences Librarian

[rachel.olsen@uncg.edu](mailto:rachel.olsen@uncg.edu)

**Melody Rood (she/her/hers)**

Student Success Librarian

[mlrood@uncg.edu](mailto:mlrood@uncg.edu)



# 1. Background

Review of literature & statistics

# Hispanic or Latin@?

A Hispanic person is someone who traces their heritage to a country whose primary spoken language is Spanish. Examples: Spain, Venezuela, Mexico, Honduras, etc.

A Latin@ person is someone who traces their heritage to a country that is located in Latin America (i.e. Central & South America). Examples: El Salvador, Belize, Brazil, etc.



# Why are you saying “Latin@”?

Opinions on this issue differ, but for our purposes we’re using “Latin@” instead of Latino or Latina or Latinx. It’s pronounced “Latin-ow”

This decision was made in consultation with the Director and Assistant Director of the Office of Intercultural Engagement.

# Remember!

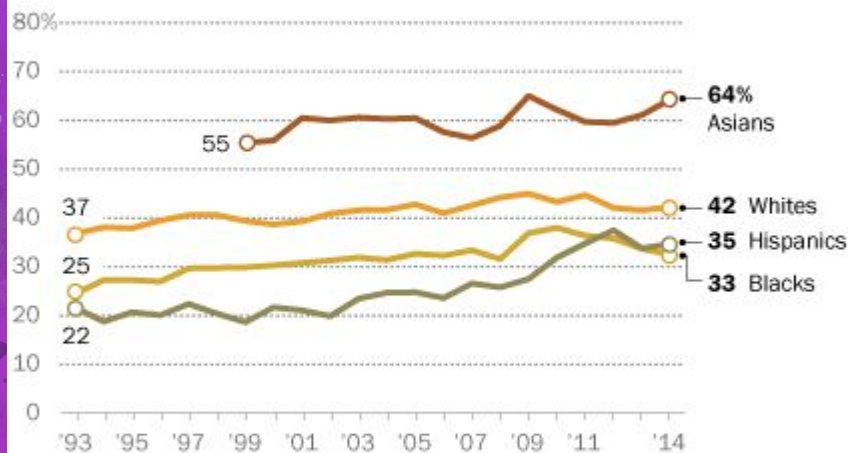
Identities are fluid and personal. Even though these parameters exist people may identify in ways that do not fit these definitions.

And that's okay!



## College enrollment by race and ethnicity

% of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college



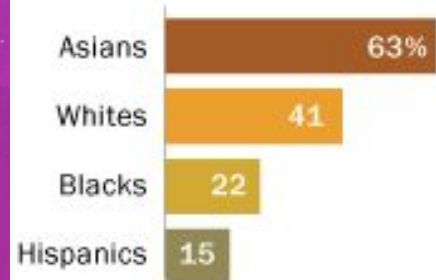
Notes: Blacks and Asians include the Hispanic portions of those groups. Whites include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau October Current Population Survey.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## College completion by race and ethnicity

% ages 25-29 with a bachelor's degree or more, 2014



Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the March Current Population Survey (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# Hispanic & Latin@ Students

- ✓ Most Hispanic & Latin@ students attend two year or community colleges, so we don't see high rates of Bachelor's degrees
  - Equals lower student debt
- ✓ Latin@ women are more likely to enroll in college, but dropout rates remain high
  - "Personal cost" of attending college



## 2. UNC Study

2016

# HSIs

- ✓ Hispanic Serving Institutions - colleges/universities who have 25% or more Hispanic/Latin@ students
- ✓ Special resources, support associated with being an HSI
- ✓ There were none in North Carolina in 2016
  - Sampson Community College has 28% as of 2017-2018
  - There are six “emerging” HSIs




NC	John Wesley University	4 priv	16.6%
NC	Salem College	4 priv	15.8%
NC	Central Carolina Community College	2 pub	16.0%
NC	Durham Technical Community College	2 pub	16.2%
NC	James Sprunt Community College	2 pub	21.5%
NC	Surry Community College	2 pub	15.1%

# Library Anxiety

- ✓ Recognition & familiarity are key when students are interacting with librarians
  - Physical, cultural, emotional
- ✓ Potential for embarrassment
  - Cultural norms related to asking for help, “bothering” people
- ✓ “Customer” vs. “patron” mindset among librarians



The background is a vibrant purple watercolor wash. A thick, white, horizontal brushstroke runs across the middle of the image, creating a bright, irregular band. The text is centered within this white band.

The best solution is to  
hire librarians of color.

# Other Questions to Consider

- ✓ Are LIS programs preparing librarians to work with students?
- ✓ Are LIS programs actively recruiting future librarians of color?
- ✓ What about LIS professors?
  - Focus in the literature on Ph.D. students
- ✓ Training librarians to interact with students from a variety of backgrounds professionally and with empathy



“

“If librarianship is to be a rewarding profession for black American(s), one must assume that the opportunity to practice it also involves the opportunity to shape the principles and practices which define it.”

-Robert Wedgeworth-

### 3. UNCG Study

2019-2020



# The Process

- ✓ Collecting Literature
  - Curated literature already collected
  - Zotero shared folder
- ✓ Consulting with Gus Peña & Daisy Santiago (Director and Assistant Director of the Office of Intercultural Engagement)

# The Process Continued

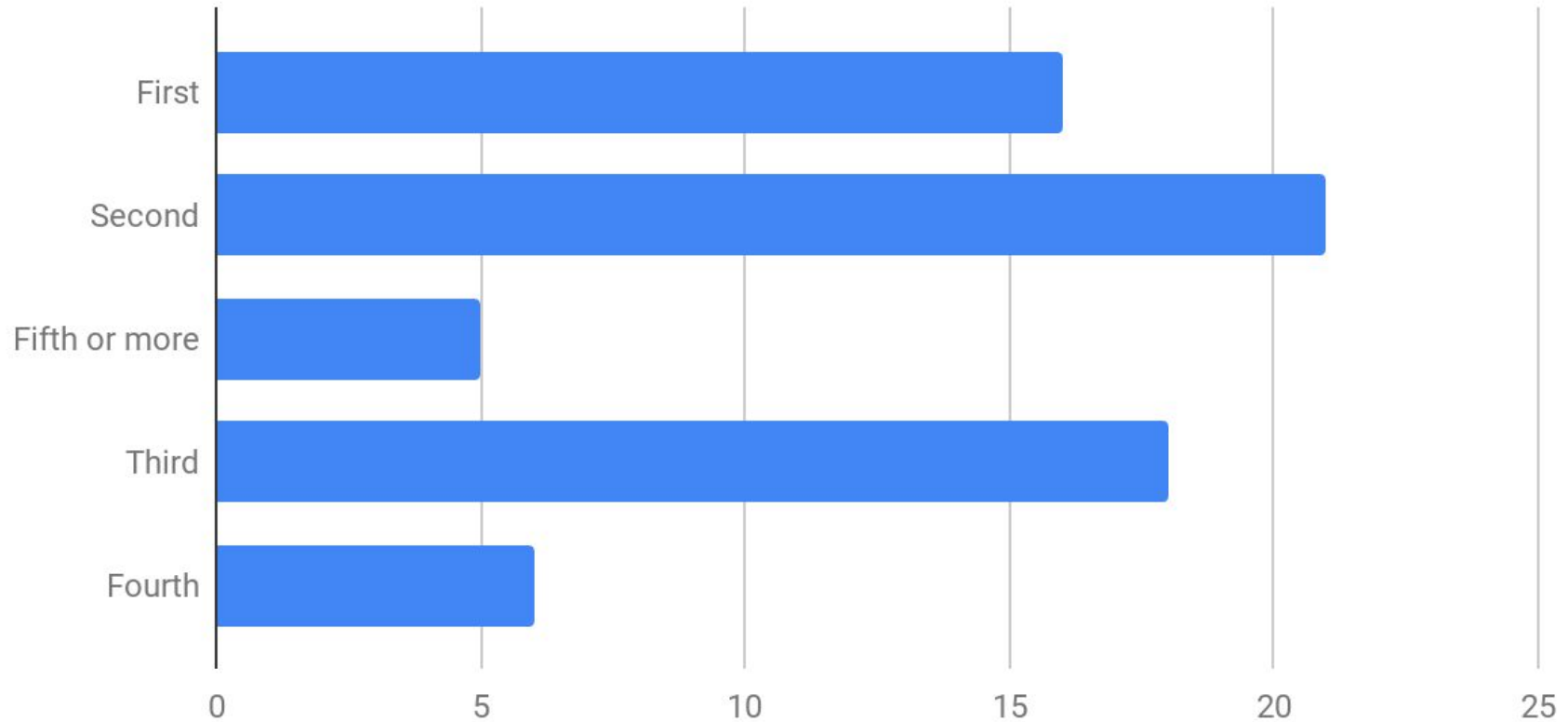
- ✓ Survey design & sampling/recruitment
  - Email list of CHANCE students, who know both of us
  - Posters: Print and digital
  - Email to relevant student groups
- ✓ IRB



## 4. Preliminary Findings

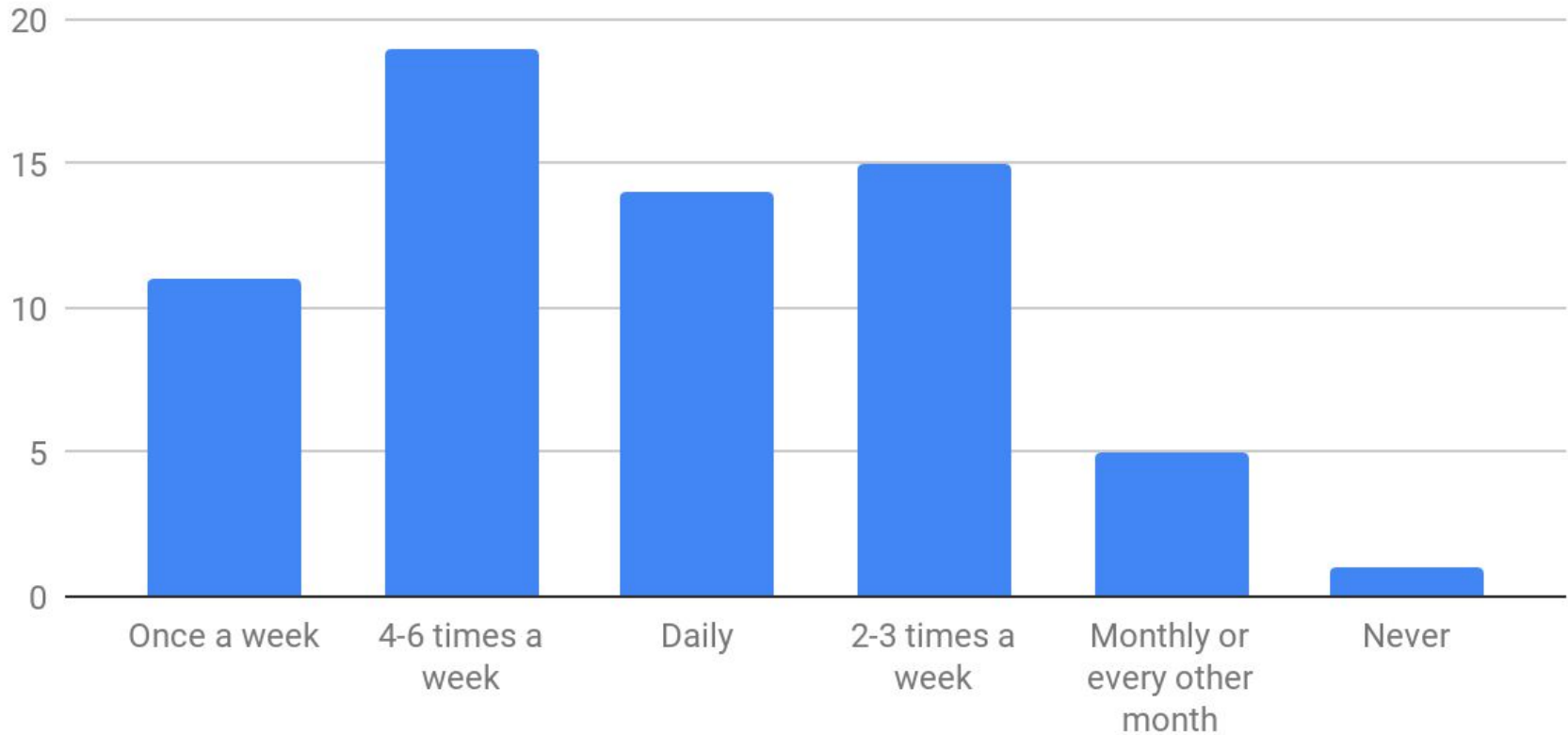
Qualtrics survey results

## What year of your degree program are you in?





## How often do you visit the libraries on campus?



## Quotes:

Have you ever asked a library staff member for assistance? Why or why not?

"I asked for help when looking for a book about McCarthyism. My professor wanted us to use a print source."

"Yes, however sometimes they are not willing to help."

"No, I'm familiar with libraries and tend to know where everything is."



## Quotes:

Do you feel comfortable using the library? Why or why not?

"Yes because it is a large area and there are rooms that can be reserved for silence."

"Yes, it feels very inclusive and welcoming."

"Neutral--I go to Jackson to study but not for anything else."

# 5. Directions

Post-COVID plans



# Adjustments for COVID-19

- ✓ Postpone focus groups & follow up questions
- ✓ Reduced opportunities for presentations
- ✓ Recruitment – redoing in Fall 2020, will likely lead to reduced participation

# Post COVID-19

- ✓ Conduct focus groups, transcribe and code recordings
- ✓ Discussion/conclusions
- ✓ Literature review
- ✓ Publication venues & presentation opportunities



# Questions?

# References



# You can also split your content

## White

Is the color of milk and fresh snow, the color produced by the combination of all the colors of the visible spectrum.

## Black

Is the color of coal, ebony, and of outer space. It is the darkest color, the result of the absence of or complete absorption of light.

# Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- ✓ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
- ✓ Photographs by Unsplash





**Free templates for all your presentation needs**



For PowerPoint and  
Google Slides



100% free for personal  
or commercial use



Ready to use,  
professional and  
customizable



Blow your audience  
away with attractive  
visuals